

Collaborating for a Healthier King County

King County Region Accountable Community of Health

October 9, 2015

Victoria Wachino
Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Washington Application for Medicaid Transformation Waiver

Dear Ms. Wachino:

The King County Accountable Community of Health Interim Leadership Council (ACH-ILC) is pleased to offer its strong support for Washington's pursuit of a Medicaid Transformation Waiver. The ACH-ILC represents over a dozen sectors that influence the health and well-being of King County's diverse residents and communities, including human services, housing, behavioral health organizations, hospital systems, community health centers, Medicaid managed care organizations, city and county governments, higher education, coalitions focused on achieving racial and health equity, and public health.

King County is home to two million residents and encompasses 39 cities and two federally recognized Tribal governments. While on overall measures of health our region appears to fare well, we face significant health, social, and racial disparities, and know that any efforts to successfully achieve the triple aim of better health, better care, and lower costs require strategies that acknowledge and tackle these disparities.

ACH as a structure to help accelerate regional priorities. The King County ACH-ILC has been active since May 2015, when we transitioned into this structure from an earlier group associated with the development of the 2013 *King County Health and Human Services Transformation Plan*. That plan established a pathway to improved health and well-being, and called for working toward a more integrated, person-focused system of health care and human service delivery; for supporting a shift to pay for value not volume; for partnering with

communities in new ways to address the social determinants of health; and for engaging the reforming Medicaid program as a key catalyst to support these transitions. When the ACH initiative was launched, it was a natural next step for this multisector group to continue its work together given the alignment of many regional goals with those of Healthier Washington.

Strong support for a Medicaid Transformation Waiver. The King County ACH-ILC is supportive of the Medicaid Transformation Waiver and committed to working with state partners to maximize its success. The initiatives proposed in the waiver can help test and scale changes in the care delivery system, and build prevention-oriented, clinical-community partnerships designed to address some of the most significant population health challenges facing the King County region.

We understand that the state will continue to partner with stakeholders, including the emerging ACHs, to refine a menu of transformation projects. Balance will be important in developing a project menu that is not so large that impact is diluted, but not so small that it fails to reflect regional differences in health status and community context. To support long-term sustainability of the Medicaid program, it will be especially critical for the waiver to engage in transformation projects that span all along an age and family structure continuum – from children and youth through older adults.

King County ACH-ILC looks forward to working with the State in the next stage of waiver development, including exploring structures to assure a strong regional voice. The ACH structure in King County is still in a formative stage, and part of the Interim Leadership Council's upcoming planned work is to develop an adjusted governance structure over the fall/winter of 2015-2016. This is an opportune time for us to continue to engage with the State and other stakeholders to assure a strong regional and multisector voice in the Medicaid Transformation Waiver, including an effective structure for identifying regional priorities for transformation projects under Initiative 1.

Key open issues in the next phases of development include infrastructure, funds flow, and future sustainability. We recognize that the Medicaid Transformation Waiver is in the early stages of its development, with many critical details still to be worked through among Washington State, CMS, and community stakeholders—including those engaged in the emerging ACHs—around the state. Working through details related to the timing and approach for building adequate and efficient infrastructure to manage various elements of the waiver, for clarifying funds flow, and for understanding post-waiver sustainability are examples of key issues that we look forward to engaging in more dialogue about.

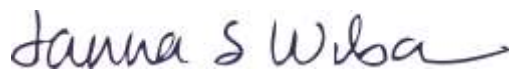
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In closing, we want to express our strong support for the Medicaid Transformation Waiver. The leadership and teams that make up Healthier Washington have already, through the State Innovation Model process, been engaging in a collaborative fashion with the King County ACH-ILC, and we look forward to continuing to work together in support of a healthier King County. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions through Janna Wilson at janna.wilson@kingcounty.gov.

On behalf of the members of King County ACH-ILC,



Janna Wilson

Director of Health Policy and Planning and King County ACH Region Staff

Public Health-Seattle & King County

Members of the King County ACH Interim Leadership Council:

Nancy Backus, Mayor, City of Auburn

Teresita Batayola, Chief Executive Officer, International Community Health Services

Elizabeth "Tizzy" Bennett, Director, Guest Services and Community Benefit, Seattle Children's Hospital

Michael Brown, Vice President, Community Programs, The Seattle Foundation

Molly Carney, Executive Director, Evergreen Treatment Services

Elise Chayet, Associate Administrator, Clinical Support Services and Planning, Harborview Medical Center

Shelley Cooper-Ashford, Governance Team, Healthy King County Coalition

Steve Daschle, Executive Director, Southwest Youth and Family Services

Erin Hafer, Director of New Programs Integration and Network Development, Community Health Plan of Washington

Jeff Harris, MD, Chair, Dept. of Health Services, School of Public Health, University of Washington

Patty Hayes, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County

David Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Navos Mental Health Solutions

Betsy Jones, Health and Human Potential Policy Adviser, King County Executive's Office

Tao Kwan-Gett, MD, Director, Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

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Kristine Lee, Director of External Affairs, Amerigroup Washington, Inc.

Laurel Lee, Vice President, Community and Member Engagement, Molina Healthcare of Washington

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Gordon McHenry, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Solid Ground

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Rebecca Saldaña, Co-chair, Regional Equity Network and Executive Director, Puget Sound Sage

Amina G. Suchoski, Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, United Healthcare Community Plan